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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0296  
INFO RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4192  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9265  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2178  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3598  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 9211  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000424

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/13/2016

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY CRITICIZES FOREIGN REACTION TO  
ELECTIONS

REF: KATHMANDU 409

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty, reasons 1.4 (b/d)

GOVERNMENT LASHES OUT AT FOREIGN CRITICISM OF MUNICIPAL POLLS  
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11. (U) In response to widespread international condemnation of the February 8 municipal polls, the Foreign Ministry issued a press release on February 10, requesting foreign powers to refrain from making "insolent comments" on matters that fall within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign country. The statement said that His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) found statements made by a "few" countries "totally objectionable and unacceptable." Further, the FM noted that demanding democracy and criticizing the polls was "a paradox in itself." The statement called the elections a success and sarcastically requested that the "government would be grateful to be enlightened if there is a substitute for elections in a democracy."

COMMENT  
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12. (C) The press laughed at the Foreign Ministry's reaction to press statements by the U.S., India, Japan, U.K., and the EU. As the King viewed the municipal polls as a necessary step in his plan to restore democracy, the statement from the Foreign Ministry likely reflects a desire to curry favor with the Palace.

MORIARTY